

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 09065 111654Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----098919 111657Z /41
O 111625Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2876

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9065

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, US, NI
SUBJECT: OBASANJO VISIT

REF: STATE 188202

1. MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA CALLED ME IN TODAY TO DISCUSS OBASANJO VISIT. HE SAID OBASANJO WAS WILLING TO ACCEDE TO THE WISH OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND TO MOVE HIS WASHINGTON VISIT FORWARD TO OCTOBER 11-12, WITH NEW YORK ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW WASHINGTON PROGRAM. GARBA WAS ANXIOUS, HOWEVER, TO CLARIFY THE TIMING OF OBASANJO'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS THE IMPLICATIONS WHICH THE ARRIVAL TIME WOULD HAVE ON THE PROTOCOL OF HIS RECEPTION. HE COMMENTED THAT THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT FIND IT AS WASY AS THE FMG TO UNDERSTAND THE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL TO DEMONSTRATE HIGHT LEVEL ATTENTION TO OBASANJO AT THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL, PARTICULARLY SINCE NEWSMEN WOULD BE PRESENT AS WELL AS LARGE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT IN WASHINGTON.

2. GARBA OBSERVED THAT OBASANJO COULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON MID-AFTERNOON OCTOBER 10 AFTER A DIRECT FLIGHT FROM LAGOS BUT THAT NIGERIANS WOULD THEN NOT UNDERSTAND IT IF THERE WERE NO PROGRAM FOR HIM THAT DAY. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT OBASANJO MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT FATIGUED ON ARRIVAL AND MIGHT NOT WISH TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 09065 111654Z

PLUNGE IMMEDIATELY INTO HIS PROGRAM. I SUGGESTED THAT OBASANJO COULD ARRIVE LATE ENOUGH IN THE EVENING SO THAT ANY PROGRAM WOULD CLEARLY BE OUT OT THE QUESTION, AND THEN HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE STARTING HIS PROGRAM NEXT MORNING. GARBA LIKED THIS IDEA BUT STILL THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL FOR SAK OF APPEARANCES THAT OBASANJO BE MET BY A VERY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL. HE MENTIONED THE SECRETARY IN THIS REGARD.

3. WE ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY THAT OBASANJO OVERNIGHT ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ARRIVE IN WASINGTON THE MORNING OF THE 11TH. GARBA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE RATHER AWKWARD TO OVERNIGHT IN NEW YORK AND THEN RETURN LATER TO NEW YORK FOR THE ACTIVITES THERE. HE SAW NO OBJECTIONS TO OVERNIGHTING IN PHILADELPHIA BUT WONDERED IN THAT CASE IF THE STATE GOVERNOR, OR AT LEAST THE MAYOR, WOULD WELCOME OBASANJO AT THE AIRPORT.

4. I TOLD GARBA THAT I WOULD REPORT OUR DISCUSSION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD ENDEAVOR TO COME BACK TO HIM SOON WITH A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. HE WILL IN THE MEANTIME DISCUSS THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES WITH OBASANJO.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
WYMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS09065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770289-0898
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770872/aaaacjbt.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e0ca45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 188202
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1634468
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OBASANJO VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, US, NI, (OBASANJO, OLUSEGUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e0ca45c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009